

In the Specification

Please replace the pending paragraphs in the application with the following paragraphs of the same number:

A2 [0014] In one embodiment of the invention, the prosthetic implant includes one or more load bearing surfaces and one or more non-load bearing surfaces. The load bearing surfaces of the implant are sized and shaped to engage or articulate with the load bearing surfaces of the second prosthetic device. The second prosthetic device is formed from a bio-compatible, organic polymer or polymer-based composite, such as UHMWPE (ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene). A diffusion-hardened surface is employed on the load bearing surfaces and the non-load bearing surface of the prosthetic implant.

A3 [0025] Figures 1 and 2 show a typical knee joint prosthesis as disclosed in the prior art where porous bead or wire mesh zirconium oxide coatings can be applied to the tibial or femoral components of the knee or both. The porous metal bead or wire mesh coating is incorporated to allow stabilization of the implant by in-growth of surrounding tissue into the porous coating. The knee joint includes a femoral component 20 and a tibial component 30 with a tibial platform 36. The femoral component includes condyles 22 which provide the articulating surface of the femoral component and pegs 24 for affixing the femoral component to the femur. The tibial component 30 includes a tibial base 32 with a peg 34 for mounting the tibial base onto the tibia. A tibial platform 36 is mounted atop the tibial base 32 and is supplied with grooves 38 similar to the shape of the condyles 22. The bottom surfaces of the condyles 26 contact the tibial platform's grooves 38 so that the condyles articulate within these grooves against the tibial platform. While condyles are typically fabricated of metals, the tibial platform may be made from an organic polymer or a polymer-based composite. The hard metallic condyle surfaces 26 articulate against a relatively softer organic composition. Zirconium oxide or nitride may be employed on the condyles for articulation with the load-bearing surfaces tibial grooves 38.

A4 [0034] As is illustrated in Figure 5, a range of motion for the patient's knee fitted with the knee prosthesis 40 as illustrated with arrows 100, 101. For purposes of reference, the